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Ouachita's Adams Department of Art and Design to host John Deering in guest exhibit Nov. 10-Dec. 12



By Dalaney Thomas

November 03, 2014

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at newsbureau@obu.edu or (870) 245-5208.

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. -- Ouachita Baptist University's Rosemary Adams Department of Art and Design will host an art exhibit featuring the work of award-winning cartoonist and illustrator John Deering. The exhibit will run Nov. 10-Dec. 12 in Ouachita's new Rosemary Adams Gallery in Moses-Provine Hall.

Deering, who is chief editorial cartoonist and illustrator at the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, also is a sculptor, art restorer and political speaker. His exhibit at Ouachita will feature a selection of paintings as well as comic strips from his "Strange Brew" series.

"The word I'd use to sum up John Deering is 'prolific,'" noted Ferris Williams, assistant professor of Art and Design at Ouachita and a former colleague of Deering's at the *Democrat-Gazette*. "He can turn out dozens of illustrations for the newspaper, an editorial cartoon, and has time for two syndicated cartoons, all while creating paintings and sculptures on the side. I'm not entirely convinced there isn't two of him.

“On top of his artistic abilities, he also has humility, a trait not common among opinion journalists,” Williams added. “When I worked in the art department of the *Democrat-Gazette*, it was a pleasure to work with him. He was always busy, but he always found the time to come over encourage us in our work.”

Deering is a lifelong Arkansan who began working at the *Arkansas Democrat* in 1981 as a contributor to the “Voices” page. Within two years of creating his cartoons, his work began winning first-place awards and Deering was promoted to chief editorial cartoonist. With political cartoons featured in *Time*, *Newsweek*, the Sunday *New York Times* and appearing on broadcast networks such as ABC, Deering has received the Fischetti Award for cartooning given by Columbia College and the Berryman Award given by the National Press Foundation. Two of Deering’s well-known sculptures include the Arkansas Medal of Honor Memorial at the state capitol and the sculpture of the Little Rock Nine at Central High School.

Deering studied fine art at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He and his wife, Kathy, live in Little Rock and have three children.

Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, and admission is free. For more information, contact Ferris Williams at williamsf@obu.edu or (870) 245-5565.